

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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CROOKS: NEW TECHNOLOGY PARK WILL AID LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

INDIANAPOLIS – Daviess, Greene and Martin Counties have taken another step this week in efforts to become among the leaders in attracting high-tech industries that bring good-paying jobs to Hoosiers, according to State Rep. Dave Crooks (D-Washington).

This week has seen the state of Indiana certify Greene and Martin Counties as state technology park sites, joining Daviess County, which was certified in May 2004. In addition, the state has pledged up to \$1 million in state funding for the development of the West Gate at Crane Technology Park, a facility that will draw the resources from all three counties.

"It will be exciting to see this park grow into a center for economic development in southern Indiana," Crooks said. "This week's news is a tribute to the efforts of many officials at the state and local level who have been determined to work for progress that benefits the people of our state."

The certification and funding announcements made this week represent a major step in efforts that Crooks has helped lead over the past two years. In the 2004 session of the Indiana General Assembly, he played a prominent role in passage of a state law (House Enrolled Act 1365) that enables technology parks to be placed in close proximity to active military bases like the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center.

"By allowing the creation of the West Gate at Crane Technology Park, we are taking significant steps forward in making sure that this area will be in the forefront of the cutting edge of the new global economy," Crooks said.

"In addition, this park will give companies easy access to Crane's facilities and expert personnel, so they can provide the equipment and support necessary to help war fighters," the lawmaker continued. "As a result, we continue to prove that Crane is a valuable asset to the state of Indiana, and we use its facilities to attract businesses that are on the lookout for highly trained workers, who will be paid good wages. This is a win-win situation for everyone involved."

Even with this week's good news, Crooks said it is important that state and local officials continue to work together to attract companies interested in locating in the new tech park.

"We have demonstrated that Republicans and Democrats can set aside partisan differences and work together to put Hoosiers to work," Crooks said. "Now is the time to step up those efforts and do more to make this area of our state a desired destination for the economy of the future."

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